

Proclamation 6160 of July 18, 1990

## Captive Nations Week, 1990

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

The end of communist domination in Eastern Europe and progress toward democratization and greater openness in the Soviet Union are signs of a new era. Ideals we Americans have long cherished and defended—ideals of individual liberty and self-government—are triumphing in nations that once bore the heavy yoke of totalitarianism. Human rights that were once brutally suppressed are gaining increasing respect, and political pluralism is replacing the tired dogmas of one-party rule—dogmas that have been thoroughly discredited time and again.

With vigilance and unfailing moral resolve, we have made great strides in our efforts to promote freedom and human rights around the world. Tragically, however, there remain countries where repressive ruling regimes continue to cling to ideologies that are inimical to the ideals of national sovereignty and individual liberty. In violation of international human rights agreements and fundamental standards of morality, these regimes continue to deny innocent men and women their inalienable rights, including freedom of speech, freedom of movement and assembly, freedom of the press, and the right to practice their religious beliefs without fear of persecution.

Each July, as we celebrate our Nation's Independence and give thanks for the blessings of liberty and self-government, we also recall our obligation to speak out for captive peoples around the world. During Captive Nations Week, we reaffirm our support for peaceful efforts to secure their right to liberty and self-determination.

As more and more government leaders around the world now acknowledge, the God-given rights of individuals must be recognized in law and respected in practice. Protecting the rights and freedom to which all men are heirs is not only the duty of any legitimate government, but also the key to real and lasting peace among nations. That is one reason why, during this Captive Nations Week, we do well to recall the timeless words written by Thomas Jefferson shortly before his death in 1826 on the 50th anniversary of our Nation's Independence:

All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. The general spread of the light of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth, that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately, by the grace of God. These are grounds of hope for others. For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them. . . .

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as "Captive Nations Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning July 15, 1990, as

Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and I urge them to reaffirm their devotion to the aspirations of all peoples for liberty, justice, and self-determination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

**Editorial note:** For the President's remarks of Jul. 25, on signing Proclamation 6160, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (vol. 26, p. 1160).

### **Proclamation 6161 of July 19, 1990**

### **Lyme Disease Awareness Week, 1990**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

Lyme disease is a complex disorder that can affect the skin, joints, nervous system, heart, and other parts of the body. Although it is easily treated when diagnosed early, Lyme disease can become very serious if it remains undetected.

The disease is caused by a bacterial infection that is transmitted to humans by the bite of a very small tick. These ticks are frequently no larger than the head of a pin. They feed primarily on deer and field mice, but other hosts include cats, dogs, birds, horses, and cattle.

Lyme disease was discovered in 1975 by a rheumatologist who found a high incidence of arthritis first in children, then in adults, living in Lyme, Connecticut, and nearby towns. Most patients lived in wooded areas, and their first symptoms appeared in the summer months. In 1981, the specific cause of the disease, the spiral-shaped bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, was identified at the National Institutes of Health by an expert scientist in tick-borne diseases.

Since its discovery in Connecticut, Lyme disease has been found in 45 States. More than 21,000 cases have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control since 1982. People who frequent wooded areas and forest edges—such as campers, hikers, and outdoor workers—are especially likely to come in contact with the tick that carries the disease. Early symptoms include a bull's-eye-shaped rash at the site of a tick bite, headaches, joint pain, fever, and swollen glands. Later symptoms may mimic those of arthritis and/or brain, nerve, and heart disease. If left untreated, Lyme disease can seriously damage the nervous system, heart, joints, and skin. But, in its early stages, Lyme disease is readily treated with antibiotics such as oral penicillin, erythromycin, and tetracycline.

Many governmental, scientific, and voluntary health organizations have committed themselves to promoting public awareness and understanding of Lyme disease. In support of their efforts, the Congress, by Senate